

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original Presented). A method for measuring a degree of association between n plurality of dimensionally referenced physical events of a pre-determined physical characteristic, said n plurality of physical events each having locations of observation, comprising the steps of: assembling n plurality of physical events each having an indicia of location and a physical characteristic above a first threshold; assembling a universe of possible sample locations; selecting n plurality of sample locations from said universe; determining a reference distribution by calculating a test statistic for each of n' plurality of random allocations of the n plurality of physical characteristics over said n plurality of sample locations; determining a restricted distribution by calculating said test statistic for each of n" plurality of restricted random allocations of the n plurality of physical characteristics over said n plurality of sample locations; and determining the degree of association between said n plurality of physical events based upon said determined reference and restricted distributions.

Claims 2-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A method, comprising:
establishing a set of occurrences of a physical event;
determining a degree of association for each occurrence; and,
identifying a subset of the occurrences having a degree of association less than a predetermined value.

21. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein each occurrence includes an associated location.

22. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein the degree of association represents a proximity between each occurrence and another occurrence.

23. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein the proximity is based on at least one reference location..

24. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 23, the reference location being defined by a model of an at-risk population.

25. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 24, the model representing the spatial-density of the at-risk population.

26. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein each associated location is an estimate of the location of the occurrence.

27. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 26, including the step of modifying the estimate of the location of the occurrence as a function of the degree of association.

28. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 20, the physical event having a parameter, each occurrence having a value of the parameter, the method further comprising the steps of:

comparing the value of the parameter of each occurrence with a second predetermined value; and,

including, in the subset, occurrences whose value of the parameter exceeds the second predetermined value.